

Wyoming Quarterly Early Intervention Council Meeting
July 16, 2008
Sheridan

Members Present: Sue Bacon, Diana Currah, Melissa Deming, Morita Flynn, Holly Lebsack, Mike Massie, Sara Mofield, Kathleen Orton, Paul Ramirez, Laurie Westlake, Lloyd Wilder and Susan Wiley

Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Division Staff Present: Christine Demers, Carol Maliszewski, Belinda McCluskey, and Cliff Mikesell

Guests Present: Terri Dawson, Parent Information Center

Call to Order: Chair-person Morita Flynn called the meeting to order at 8:21 AM. A quorum of the Council was present.

Additions to the Agenda: Formation of a nominations committee was added to new business.

BUSINESS

Review of April EIC Minutes: Mike Massie moved and Paul Ramirez seconded to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting on April 9, 2008; passed unanimously.

Membership: The recent appointments by the Governor bring the total Council membership to twenty. Full membership consists of twenty-three members. The Council still needs an additional parent and provider to serve on the board. Laurine Hine will serve as the representative from the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes.

Belinda McCluskey described her extensive efforts to solicit applications for membership from parents, but there has been no response. She noted that personal contact may be the best approach in identifying an additional parent to serve on the board.

With Debra Smith's departure from the board, Diana indicated an interest in serving as the representative from the Wyoming Department of Education rather than the homeless. Mike Massie moved and Laurie Westlake seconded to have Diana serve in this capacity; the motion passed unanimously. The Division will search for someone to represent the homeless.

WESTAT Visit: As part of a survey of twenty states, WESTAT reviewed Wyoming's data and monitoring activities for 2006. This included an interview with Morita Flynn about the role the EIC played in the monitoring process. She asked whether the Council should review the results of the present monitoring visits. Cliff indicated that would be an appropriate function as part of the EIC's advisory role to the Division and would also serve to increase the Council's understanding of the developmental preschools.

OLD BUSINESS

Early Childhood Development Council (ECDC): As a result of a meeting between some members of the ECDC and EIC, a suggestion was conveyed that the EIC appoint a provider member liaison to the ECDC to facilitate communication. Council members decided not to take any action on the request until the ECDC provides some clarification about its activities, the role of the liaison, and whether this person would be a formal member of that group.

Special Quest TA Grant: An overview of the Special Quest project was provided. The endeavor is seeking to further meaningful inclusion in Head Start programs and child care settings through training and technical assistance. The Shoshone-Arapaho Head Start Program and Wyoming Child and Family Development are pilot programs for the effort. The group is developing an action plan for this three-year grant. Some Council members expressed concern about a survey of the project's steering committee and one of the tenants of the draft action plan that appear to reflect a low perception of the visibility of developmental preschool screenings and services. Others replied that the survey results reflect the committee's perceptions of how child care centers view these opportunities in their communities and serves the purpose of establishing a low base from which the project can work.

Child Find: During the April Council meeting, members raised questions about the appropriateness of the goals for two Part C indicators – the percentages of the Birth–1 and Birth–3 populations receiving services. The state is not meeting the objective for Birth–1, primarily because the objective is quite high. The goal for Birth–3 is too high as well, but Wyoming is nevertheless exceeding this one. The Division indicated that these goals, which were established by a stakeholder group that included developmental preschool personnel, are likely unrealistic. The Division staff will provide some additional information on these indicators in preparation for further Council review of this matter at the next meeting.

Kathleen Orton reviewed the revisions that Children's Resource Center is making to its newborn packet of information that it presents to parents. The intent is to increase Birth–1 screenings. Items will now include a receiving blanket with the "1 before 2" logo, a developmental wheel and a CRC brochure. CDS of Wyoming has post cards that can be mailed to parents six months to a year from a birth to remind them about the importance of early screenings.

Child Count: Sara Mofield discussed the logistical issues of moving the annual child count from December 1 to November 1 for the purposes of determining the level of state funding for the developmental preschools. The Division is preparing emergency rules to define the child count procedures before this fall.

Child Outcome Summary Forms: Carol described the purpose of these forms, which are used primarily to demonstrate child progress to fulfill federal and state reporting requirements. In conjunction with the forms, the Division has developed a list of acceptable assessment tools to help measure this progress. They are used in conjunction with other methods to determine if services are generating the intended results. The information collected thus far indicates that children are making progress as a result of developmental interventions.

Immunization Record Card Report: Kathleen Orton and Liz Mikesell are continuing to pursue this activity.

Annual Preschool Conference: Belinda McCluskey distributed a packet of information about the Division's annual conference for developmental preschool professionals and parents. She described some of the sessions that will be offered and noted that this is the first year that a concerted effort has been made to recruit parents to the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Office of Special Education (OSEP): OSEP rated Wyoming's Part C program as meeting requirements, one of twenty-two states to receive this determination. The Part B program received a "needs assistance" designation, which is one level below "meets requirements." There were three reasons for this decision, only one of which pertained to developmental preschools. This one factor involved transition issues.

Regional Part C Determinations: Now that the state has received its determination, the Division will convey similar assessments to the developmental preschools for the Part C program. The agency will inform the regional programs of their scores before the end of July. Ten of the fourteen preschools will receive a "meets requirements" designation; four will be determined as "needs assistance." This latter group will have access to training and technical assistance in addressing the deficiencies. The Division will review Wyoming statutes and session laws to determine if the state process for consulting with a regional program's board is necessary regarding the determinations for these four programs.

2008 ITCA Parent Leadership Award: Belinda McCluskey distributed information about nominating a parent for this award. The regional winner will compete for a national award. Council members should e-mail Belinda with some names for nominations.

Nominations Committee: Morita Flynn appointed Kathleen Orton (chair) and Laurie Westlake as a nominations committee to present a slate for Council president and vice-president at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION - Child Development Center (of Sheridan and Johnson counties): Sandra O'Dell, the executive director of Region 2, offered a Power Point presentation that the program developed to promote its building needs. A recent grant of \$500,000 has helped launch the effort to raise \$3,000,000 for the expansion of the Sheridan center. Funds and a site have been secured for a new building in Buffalo. Sandi also reviewed some of the elements of the CDC's program and answered questions from Council members.

FUTURE MEETINGS: The Council decided on the dates and locations for meetings over the next year:

- October 2 in Casper
- January 22 in Cheyenne
- April 23 in Torrington
- July 16 in Thermopolis (tentative)

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:07 PM.

Minutes prepared by Mike Massie and Belinda McCluskey
Approved as written: October 2, 2008